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Hinckley bomb threat issued

By Eric Miller

Staff Writer of The News

DENVER — A bomb threat Wednesday forced the evacuation of 3,000 workers in the downtown office building that houses Vanderbilt Energy Corp., owned by the father of the man accused of shooting President Reagan.

An anonymous caller warned a switchboard operator at the Colorado National Bank building about 1 p.m. there were plans "to bomb Mr. Hinckley."

The headquarters of the oil company owned by John W. Hinckley is

on the 17th floor of the 26-story building.

Hinckley's 25-year-old son, John W. Hinckley Jr., formerly of Highland Park, is accused of gunning down Reagan, press secretary James Brady and two others outside the Washington Hilton early Monday afternoon.

"He (the caller) said something like, 'They're going to bomb Mr. Hinckley'," said Jim Wisdom, head of security for office building.

Building officials immediately ordered the evacuation of the building's 3,000 occupants, who streamed

out onto the downtown sidewalks.

A 1-hour search turned up no explosives and security officials allowed the workers back to their offices.

"There's 3,000 people we have to consider," said Wisdom. "It was probably a crank, but you know you just have to take it seriously."

Wisdom said the Vanderbilt offices were closed Monday only hours after Reagan was shot. "It will reopen as soon as they get things straightened out," he said.

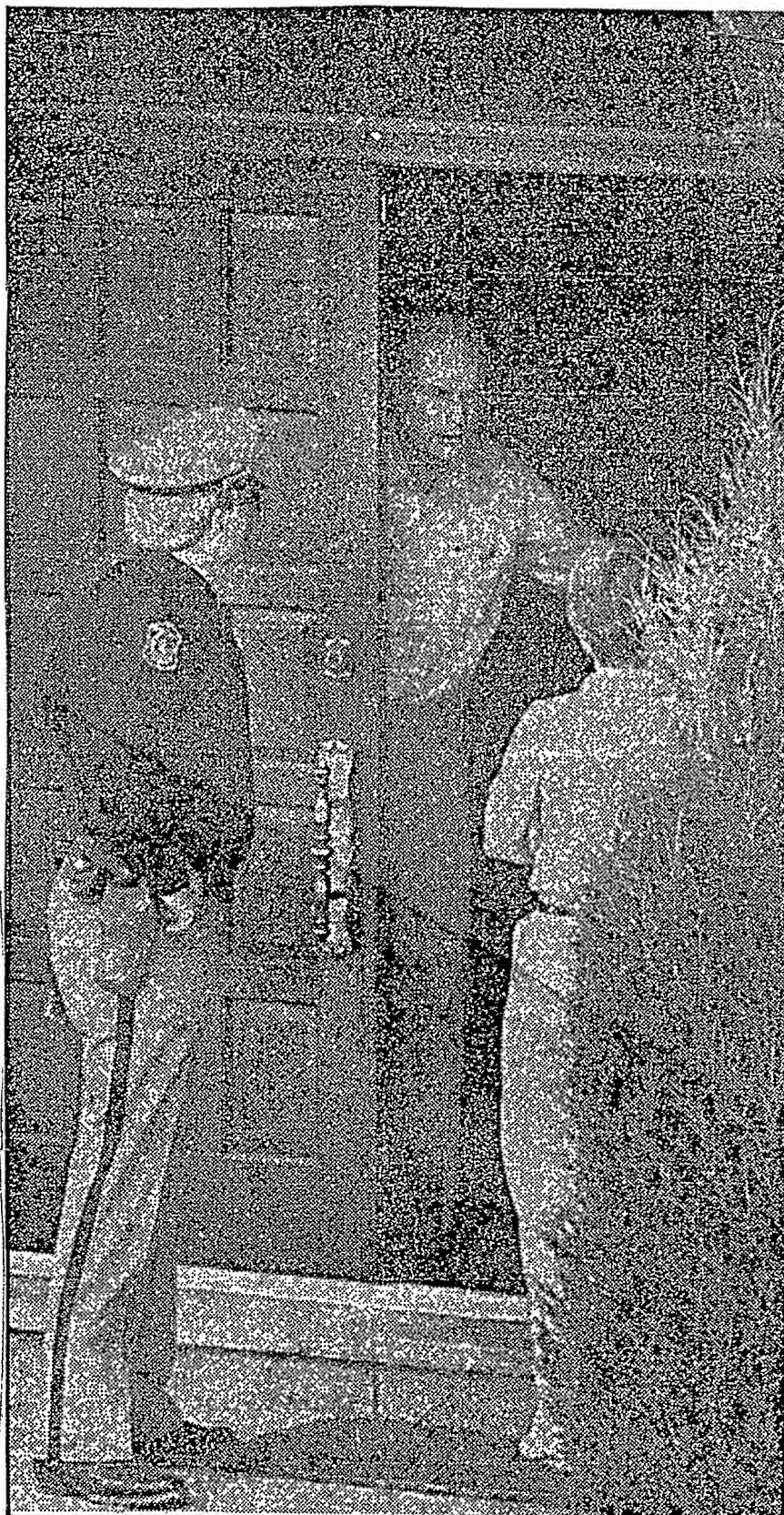
The Hinckley family moved from Highland Park to Evergreen, Colo., in 1974.

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Dallas Morning News: John Rhodes

John W. Hinckley Sr. (center) greets a neighbor Wednesday at his home in Evergreen, Colo., as Jefferson County Deputy M.J. Riese looks on. The elder Hinckley and his wife have been in seclusion since their son, John W. Hinckley Jr., was arrested in the attempted assassination of President Reagan on Monday in Washington.